



City and County of the City of Chester

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND
COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY AND
COUNTY OF THE CITY OF CHESTER

on the

HEALTH OF THE CITY
IN 1939

by

J. W. LOBBAN, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1938-39.

Chairman - - - COUNCILLOR R. W. DUNN.
Deputy-Chairman - - - COUNCILLOR E. E. ASHTON.

Members :

ALDERMAN A. S. DUTTON.	COUNCILLOR S. JANE DUNNE.
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„ CHARLES SCONCE.	„ T. J. DAVIES.
COUNCILLOR A. CHARMLEY.	„ R. MATTHEWS JONES.
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	„ T. D. GILBRIDE.

The Mayor (Alderman Phyllis Brown) is an ex-officio member of all Committees of the Council.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent, Corporation Hospitals, and Tuberculosis Officer.	J. W. Lobban, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health, and Deputy School Medical Officer, etc.	H. E. C. Sutton, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Food Inspector, Factory Acts, Supervision, etc.	*†S. H. Moore, F.S.I.A., F.R.S.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspector, Food Inspector, etc.	*†W. B. Calder, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
†District Additional Sanitary Inspector.	*†W. H. Wilkinson, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
††District Additional Sanitary Inspector.	*†G. E. Jarvis, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.
Assistant District Inspector	H. J. Hewitt, M.S.I.A.
Housing Inspector	*M. G. H. Tresidder, C.R.S.I.
Abattoir Attendant and Assistant Meat Inspector	*J. H. Withington, M.S.I.A.
Superintendent Health Visitor and Assistant Inspector of Midwives.	‡Miss M. H. Beattie, S.R.N., H.V.C.

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Health Visitors	†Miss E. Brayne, S.R.N. †Miss L. Robson, A.R.SAN.I., M.I.H. ‡Mrs. A. E. Austin, S.R.N. ‡Miss Z. K. Wilkins, S.R.N., H.V.C. ‡Miss M. A. Owen, S.R.N., H.V.C.
Chief Clerk	F. Thomas.
Assistant Clerk	§T. R. Blythe, A.M.S.I.A.
*Assistant Clerk	J. Adamson.
Assistant Clerk (Part time, School Medical)	R. W. Hudson.
Assistant Clerk and Laboratory Attendant (Part time, School Medical)	C. Stoddard.
Matron, Isolation Hospital	Miss L. Taylor, S.R.N.

CITY HOSPITAL.

*Senior Resident Medical Officer ...	H. A. Freeman, M.R.C.S.
Consulting Surgeons	J. N. Adam, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E. A. W. Holgate, M.S., F.R.C.S.
Consulting Physician	A. B. Paul, M.A., M.B., B.Ch.
Consulting Gynaecologist	J. G. Wigley, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.
Consulting Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon.	A. W. McCay, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E.
*Consulting Radiologist	R. S. Topham, M.B., Ch.B., D.M.R.E., D.P.H.
Consulting Radiologist	R. F. Innes, M.B., Ch.B., D.M.R.E.
Consulting Orthopaedic Surgeon ...	G. T. Partridge, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.
Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon ...	E. F. Wilson, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.
Consulting Dental Surgeon	E. N. Sterndale Bennett, L.D.S.
Steward	E. Bennion.
Matron	Miss Moss
Almoner	Miss Hyde
Radiographer	Miss Pugh

† Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Food Inspection.

* Certificate Liverpool University, Meat and Food Inspection.

§ Certificate, Liverpool University, Sanitary Science.

‡ Certificate Central Midwives Board.

* Serving with H.M. Forces.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report upon the health of the City in 1939.

The vital statistics are based upon figures supplied by the Registrar General and can be studied in detail in the report.

The report is abbreviated owing to the war, but it will be seen that a considerable volume of work has been carried out by the Department.

The staff has responded well to the extra duties involved in Civil Defence and I take this opportunity of paying tribute to their continued loyalty and support.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. LOBBAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

City and County of the City of Chester.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA.

Area in Acres	4,142
Population (Registrar-General) middle of 1939	44,280 (BR)
	45,090 (IM)
Number of inhabited houses end of 1939 from Rate Books ...	11,888
Rateable Value	£401,086
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,560

The following are extracts from the vital statistics of the year—

The estimated population of the City at the middle of 1939 as given by the Registrar-General was 44,280 for the birth rate and 45,090 for the death rate.

	M.	Total.	F.	Rate per 1,000 population.
Live Births				Birth Rate 15.6
Legitimate	333		323	
Illegitimate	24		15	

Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births, 45.3.

Death Rate—Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and parturition :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births).
from sepsis	1	1.3
from other causes	3	4.1
Total ...	4	5.4

Death Rates of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	77.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	74.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	128.2

	Number.	Rate.
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	70	1.5
Deaths from measles (all ages)	0	0.00
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	0	0.00
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3	0.06

THE BIRTH RATE.

The birth rate shows an increase of 1.1 from that of 1938, being 15.6 compared with 14.5 in 1938. The figures for the last five years are as follows :—

	England and Wales.	Smaller Towns.	Chester.
1935	14.7	14.8	14.0
1936	14.8	15.0	15.1
1937	14.9	15.3	14.7
1938	15.1	15.4	14.5
1939	15.0	15.6	15.6

There were 33 still births registered in the City in 1939 belonging to Chester, giving a rate of 45.3p er 1,000 total births.

INFANT DEATH RATE.

The infant death rate for the year is 77.3 per 1,000 live births, an increase of 3.0 from last year. There were 54 deaths in infants under 1 year compared with 48 in 1938.

30 of these deaths were due to prematurity or congenital debility and 16 were due to pneumonia.

The position of Chester is shown in the following table :—

	England and Wales.	Smaller Towns.	Chester.
1933	64	56	67.7
1934	59	53	71.8
1935	57	55	75.8
1936	59	55	51.3
1937	55	58	59.6
1938	53	51	74.3
1939	50	40	77.3

GENERAL DEATH RATE.

The deaths of Chester residents in 1939 numbered 611 giving a death rate of 13.8 compared with 14.0 in 1938.

157 deaths occurred in the age group 75 years and over, representing 25.6 per cent. of the total deaths.

140 deaths occurred in the age group 65-75 years, representing 22.8 per cent. of deaths. From these figures it will be seen that the total number of deaths in the age group 65 years and over represents 48.4 per cent. of the total deaths compared with 48.3 per cent. in 1938.

Heart disease accounted for 162 deaths and other circulatory conditions for 24 deaths. Deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 61, of which 37 were due to pneumonia.

Deaths from cancer numbered 70. Of these, 15 were in the age group 75 years and over, and 25 in the age group 65-75 years.

Pulmonary tuberculosis accounted for 29 deaths and there were 8 deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

With regard to infectious diseases the following deaths occurred—measles 0, scarlet fever 0, whooping cough 0, diphtheria 11, influenza 12, cerebro-spinal fever 1.

Suicide accounted for 5 deaths, and other violence for 22 deaths.

The comparison of Chester with the figures supplied by the Registrar-General for England and Wales and smaller towns is set out below.

The crude death rate has been multiplied by the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar-General.

	England and Wales.	Smaller Towns.	Chester.
1939	12.1	11.2	13.8

Our death rates from infectious diseases are given in the following comparative statement:—

	England and Wales.	Smaller Towns.	Chester.
Enteric Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	0.05	0.04	0.24
Influenza	0.21	0.20	0.26
Diarrhoea under 2 years (per 1,000 births)	4.6	3.0	4.3

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

There was no change in the Laboratory Services during the year under review apart from the transfer of the monthly chemical analyses of water to the Public Analyst. The total number of specimens examined in the Laboratory during the year was 3,403, which included 223 examinations of the City water supply and 18 examinations of water from the City Baths.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

No change.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

No change.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The following clinics are administered by the Local Authority :—

	Situation.	Accommodation.
1. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic	Princess Street ...	Waiting room, weighing room, consulting room.
2. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic	Curzon St., Saltney	Waiting and weighing room, consulting room.
3. Ante-Natal Clinic	Princess Street ...	Waiting room, consulting room.
4. School Clinic (inspection) ...	"	"
5. School Clinic (treatment) ...	"	"
6. Ultra Violet Ray Clinic ...	"	"
7. Tuberculosis Clinic ...	2, King's Buildings	"
8. Venereal Disease Centre ...	Chester Royal Infirmary	Waiting, treatment and ablution room.

A Local Committee under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John of Jerusalem administers the

9. Orthopaedic after care Clinic	2, King's Buildings	Waiting room and consulting room.
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MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

1. *Princess Street Clinic.*—Two sessions are held weekly and a medical officer attends for consultation.

The babies and children under the age of 5 years are regularly weighed and records of progress kept.

When necessary children and mothers are seen by the Medical Officer.

The following attendances were made during the year :—

(a) by children under 1 year of age	3050
(b) by children between the ages of one and five years	5039
(c) by mothers	6462

(2) *Saltney Clinic.*—The same Medical Officer attends this clinic which meets once weekly.

The following attendances were made during the year :—

(a) by children under 1 year	540
(b) by children between the ages of one and five years	1433
(c) by mothers	1574

The following were the consultations with the Medical Officer :—

First visits of children under 1 year ...	287	63
Subsequent visits	870	263
Children (1—5 years) first visits	68	50
Subsequent visits	1076	821
Mothers (consultations)	38	26

A voluntary body—the Chester Infant Welfare Committee have a rota of voluntary workers who attend these clinics and provide tea, etc., for the mothers.

In addition, garments, etc., for babies are provided for necessitous cases.

During the year outings are held for the mothers and teas at Christmas.

The work of this Committee is much appreciated.

(3) *Ante-Natal Clinic*.—The ante-natal clinic is held once a week under the charge of the Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer.

Expectant mothers are examined and advised, and the midwife interested in the case is written to if not present.

During the year the Medical Officer has seen 217 mothers who have paid 482 visits.

Cases were sent to Hospital if requiring special treatment, or if the home conditions were such as to contra indicate home confinement.

An ante-natal clinic is held at the City Hospital.

City Hospital—

Number of mothers seen	315
Number of attendances	1698
Post-natal attendances	97

The total attendances at ante-natal clinics in the City represents 73 per cent. of total notified births.

(4) *The School Clinic (Inspection)* meets every School-day and is in charge of the Deputy School Medical Officer.

(5) *The School Clinic (Treatment)* meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and is under the charge of the same medical officer.

(6) *Ultra Violet Ray Clinic*. This clinic is held on Tuesdays and Fridays.

(7) *The Tuberculosis Clinic* meets on Mondays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. and on Thursdays at 6 p.m.

The number of patients on the Dispensary Register at the end of the year was	236
Number of new cases examined	96
Number of contacts examined	14

Number of attendances at the Dispensary	201
Number of attendances at Cheshire Joint Sanatorium for refills in artificial pneumothorax	75
Number of visits of tuberculosis officer to homes	35
Number of "T.B. plus" cases on the Register	76
Number of visits of nurses to tuberculous persons (including those under Tuberculosis Regulations)	1049
Number of X-ray examinations made	137

(8) *Venereal Diseases Centre* :—

The following sessions are held :—

Monday (5—7 p.m.) female.

Wednesday (5—7 p.m.) male.

Thursday (5—7 p.m.) female.

Saturday (12—2 p.m.) male.

The clinic is open all day for irrigations, and trained assistants are in attendance.

The clinic is a joint one for Chester and the Counties of Cheshire and Flintshire.

The following is a table of the work done in 1939—

	Syphilis.		Gonorrhoea.		Conditions other than Venereal.		Total.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Number of Cases at beginning of year	107	62	215	97	24	18	346	177
Number attending for first time 1939 ...	43	26	156	33	20	6	219	65
Ceased to attend or transferred to other centres	8	3	15	7	—	—	23	10
Discharged	8	13	75	11	44	24	127	48
Number under treatment at end of year	134	72	281	112	—	—	415	184

The following is the number of Chester patients attending during the year for the last five years :—

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Syphilis	13	17	22	14	16
Gonorrhoea	49	45	28	52	54
Conditions other than venereal	3	6	8	11	5

The number of attendances made by Chester patients was 3,241

(9) The *Orthopaedic After-Care Clinic* meets once a week when the cases are seen by the specialist staff of the Robert Jons and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry. During the year 181 cases were under treatment and they made 850 attendances.

The following are details of the cases :—

	On Books 1/1/39	Admitted during 1939	No. Treated during 1939	Discharged during 1939	On Books 31 12/39		Attendances during 1939
					Active Treat- ment	Appliance Super- vision	
Under 5 years ...	35	23	58	13	45	—	235
5—10 years ...	54	21	75	15	40	—	412
10 years and over ...	22	6	28	10	12	6	67
Tubercular Cases (all ages)	17	3	20	5	13	2	136
Totals ...	128	53	181	43	130	8	850

I have to thank most cordially once again the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem whose enthusiasm and help combine to make a success of the clinic.

Much good work is done in after-care of cripples by the Members of these societies.

During 1939 there were 17 Chester patients sent by the Maternity and Child Welfare and Education Committee and the Tuberculosis Officer to the Robert Jones and the Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, and 6 remained from 1938.

These patients spent 2982 in-patient days in hospital.

The staff of the Hospital continue to co-operate with the Medical Staff of the Local Authority in the most helpful manner.

(e) HOSPITALS.

Name.	Situation.	Purpose.	No. of Available Beds.	Pro- portion used by City Residents.	Management.
Chester Royal Infirmary	City ...	General ...	225	$\frac{1}{4}$	Voluntary Agency
City Hospital	City ...	General ...	202	$\frac{12}{20}$	Local Authority
Maternity Hospital...	City ...	Maternity ...	8	$\frac{5}{9}$	Voluntary Agency
Cheshire Joint Sanatorium	Market Drayton	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	250	$\frac{1}{30}$	Joint Committee
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital	Gobowen	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis and other crippling conditions	300	$\frac{1}{18}$	Voluntary Agency
Isolation Hospital ...	1 mile from centre of City	Infectious Diseases	66	$\frac{5}{8}$	Local Authority
Smallpox Hospital...	" "	Smallpox ...	10	—	Local Authority
Cheshire Joint Board for Mentally Defective	Holmes Chapel	Mental Defectives	318	$\frac{1}{10}$	Joint Board
Liverpool Sanatorium	Delamere	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	175	$\frac{1}{18}$	Voluntary Agency

The location and amount of bed accommodation for various conditions is given where possible in the following table:—

			Chester Royal Infirmary.	City Hospital.	Isolation Hospital Chester.	Cheshire Joint Sanatorium.	Liverpool Sanatorium Delamere	Cheshire Joint Board for the Mentally Defective	Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital.
General Medical	...	M	16	10	—	—	—	—	—
"	...	F	16	16	—	—	—	—	—
General Surgical	...	M	52	14	—	—	—	—	—
"	...	F	32	10	—	—	—	—	—
Gynæcological	...	...	15	6	—	—	—	—	—
Children	...	...	26	40	—	—	—	—	—
Maternity	...	...	—	36	—	—	—	—	—
Venereal Diseases	...	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
"	...	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Pulmonary		M	—	—	—	4*	*6†	—	—
"	"	F	—	—	—	4*	*2†	—	—
"	" Children	...	—	—	—	—	*2†	—	—
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmon.		M	—	—	—	—	—	—	†
"	"	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	†
"	" Children	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	†
Chronic Sick	...	M	—	22	—	—	—	—	—
"	...	F	—	32	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic	...	M	10	—	—	—	—	—	†
"	...	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	†
Ear, Nose and Throat		M	5	—†	—	—	—	—	—
"	...	F	5	—†	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	—†	—†	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmic	...	M	6	—†	—	—	—	—	—
"	...	F	6	—†	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases	...	...	—	—	66	—	—	—	—
Mental Defectives	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	12	—
"	...	F	—	—	—	—	—	20	—
Isolation Wards	...	...	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
Private Wards	...	...	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	...	...	—	6	—	—	—	—	—

* Beds used by Chester County Borough. † Beds given as required.
‡ Extra Beds provided if necessary.

Chester City Hospital.

During the year a visiting Orthopaedic Surgeon was appointed.

The following statistics shows the work done:—

The number of admissions, etc., has shown an increase.

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Admissions	1377	1529	1832	2017	2325
Births	120	173	195	270	410
Discharges	1201	1362	1578	1808	2059
Surgical operations	156	270	330	356	369

Statistics for the year ended 31st December, 1939.—

	1939	(1938)
Number of Admissions	2325	(2017)
Number of women confined in hospital	404	(268)
Number of live births	378	(253)
Number of still births	32	(17)
Number of deaths among newly born	18	(9)
Total number of deaths under 1 year	17	(38)
Number of maternal deaths	nil	(3)
Total number of deaths	256	(235)
Total number of discharges	2059	(1808)
Duration of stay—		
(a) under 4 weeks	1665	(1464)
(b) 4 to 13 weeks	462	(402)
(c) 13 weeks and over	188	(177)
Average number of beds occupied	170	(168)
(a) highest	198 11/3/39	(191) (29/1/38)
(b) lowest	67 9/9/39	(110) (13/8/38)
Surgical operations under general anaesthetic	369	(356)
Number of abdominal sections	91	(99)

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

On January 1st, 1939, 23 patients were in hospital. During the year 452 patients were admitted, 382 discharged, 20 died, and there remained in hospital on January 1st, 1940, 73 patients.

The number of admissions shows a decrease of 71 from 1938.

City cases numbered 291, while the remainder (161) came from other authorities.

Scarlet Fever.

190 cases were admitted to the Scarlet Fever Ward. Of these 161 were diagnosed as suffering from scarlet fever (City cases 93), 13 were re-diagnosed as suffering from other conditions, and 16 were complicated with other diseases.

There were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

Cases of diphtheria numbered 197 of which 141 were City cases.

Included are 6 City and 5 outside cases of nasal diphtheria, 4 City contacts, and 8 diphtheria carriers 3 of whom were City cases.

In addition 35 cases were admitted as diphtheria and subsequently re-diagnosed as other conditions.

Deaths from diphtheria numbered 14, 10 City and 4 from other areas.

6 cases died within 24 hours of admission.

3 cases were laryngeal cases.

The following is a detailed statement of the deaths in hospital :—

	City	Other	Total
Diphtheria	10	4	14
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	—	1
Marasmus	1	—	1
Neoplasm of spinal cord	1	—	1
Streptococcal meningo encaphalitis and mastoiditis	1	—	1
Tuberculous meningitis	1	—	1
Bronchitis and broncho-pneumonia	1	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ...	16	4	20

The following table gives details of the admissions :—

1939.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Para- Typhoid Fever.	Rubella.	Ponsil- litis.	Measles	Ery- sipelas	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Other Con- ditions	Total.
Chester ...	111	141	1	...	3	2	5	4	24	291
Tarvin ...	21	12	...	...	...	1	1	...	9	44
Hoole ...	52	36	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	92
Hawarden ...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Flint ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Military ...	5	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	7	17
Other ...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
Total ...	190	197	3	1	3	3	6	4	45	452

Nineteen cases for cleansing due to impetigo or scabies were admitted from evacuees from Chester and District.

The cubicle isolation block proved very useful in dealing with the various infections encountered during the year.

After the outbreak of war, owing to evacuation, cases of infection such as mumps and rubella not usually admitted to hospital were treated.

(1) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929.

No further step has been taken to make a declaration under this Act.

(2) POOR LAW MEDICAL OUT-RELIEF.

(3) INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR THE CARE OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

The total accommodation available for Chester patients in Cranage Hall is as follows :—

High Grade female	18
High Grade male	10
Lowest Grade female	2
Lowest Grade male	2
	—
Total ...	32
	—

There are still Chester patients in Institution in various parts of the county. These cases will be transferred to Cranage on further extensions being completed.

3. (1) MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

The work of the maternity unit at the City Hospital has again shown an increase. In comparison with 268 cases delivered in 1938, the number of women confined in the hospital was 404.

Sixteen cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified.

The number of maternal deaths was 3.

The causes of death were as follows :—

1. Post Partum Pulmonary Embolism.
2. Paralytic ileus, Caesarean Section.
3. Uterine Haemorrhage, Caesarean Section.

There were 32 still births and fifteen deaths of infants within ten days of birth.

Prematurity, 9.

Asphyxia Pallida, 1.

Intracranial Haemorrhage, 1.

Asphyxia neonatorum, 1.

Traumatic intra cranial haemorrhage, 1.

Melaena neonatorum, .

Complete spina bifida, 1.

Municipal Midwifery Service.

There are five municipal midwives employed by the Corporation. During the year they attended 327 cases as midwives and 56 cases as maternity nurses.

Under the provisions of the Midwives Act the Local Authority paid the whole or part of the doctor's fee when called in an emergency by the midwife in 94 cases, a decrease of 5 from last year.

Artificial Feeding. 20 notifications were received during the year.

Total number of births notified	1031
Cases attended and delivered by doctors	79
Cases attended in nursing homes	176
Cases attended and delivered by midwives	331
Cases attended in hospitals	445
Number of still births	33

Of the 331 births attended by midwives, in 96 cases some condition arose requiring the calling in of Medical help either for the mother or infant. This is an increase of 2 from last year.

The reasons for requiring help were as follows :—

Feebleness of child	9
Prolonged labour or malpresentation	16
Complications before labour	18
Complications during labour	6
Complications after labour	4
Rise of temperature	10
Discharge from the eyes	4
Lacerated perinaeum	18
Abortion	1
Prematurity	1
Skin eruption	3
Abnormality of child	6

(iii) INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

The accommodation at the City Hospital is adequate for the needs of the City.

During the year accommodation was available for healthy children up to the age of 3 years in the City Hospital, and over 3 years such children are accommodated in the Children's Home, Wrexham Road, Chester.

Marasmic and ailing babies are admitted to the Children's Ward at the City Hospital.

(iv) HEALTH VISITORS.

The number of health visitors is six.

The Health Visitors made the following visits :—

Primary Births Visits	814
Return Visits	4929
Visits to Children (1—5 years	11180
Visits to Expectant Mothers	606
Other visits	1226
Visits to Midwives	18

The visits to cases of tuberculosis are shown elsewhere in the report.

(v) INFANT LIFE PROTECTION (CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1932).

This Act is administered by the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee.

The register is kept in the Public Health Department where all notifications are sent.

The number of children on the register at the end of the year was 16.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

Dental Treatment was provided for nursing and expectant mothers. The treatment is either free, or subject to part payment, according to the means of the family.

Nine cases were treated during the year.

Children under five are treated as the school Dental Clinic.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

As in former years this has been carried out by the Orthopaedic After-Care Committee and the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry. Fuller details of this work will be found elsewhere in the report.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1918.

Under this order milk was supplied to 3,168 applicants of whom 168 were first applications.

The Milk Marketing Board scheme for the supply of milk to mothers and children under five years of age came into operation on the 16th December, and from then until the end of the year the following numbers received milk :—

Free—116.

1d. a pint—7.

2d. a pint—10.

An extra clerk was appointed to carry out this scheme on account of the increase in work involved.

NURSING HOMES.

The number of nursing homes registered at the end of 1939 was 7.

The following table gives particulars :—

	Number of Homes	Number of Patients provided for :—		
		Maternity	Other	Total
Homes first registered during year ...	—	—	—	—
Homes on register at the end of the year	7	13 definite plus unallocated number	40	53

Eighteen inspections were made during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER.

Chester continues to have an abundant water supply. Since the adoption of modern methods of purification the standard of purity obtained has been remarkably good; when one considers that the water is obtained from the River Dee.

The standard taken is the absence of bacillus coli from 100 c.c. of water.

On no occasion during the year has bacillus coli been found in the water as supplied to the consumer.

The water in addition to ^{twice} bi-monthly bacteriological examinations is examined chemically once a month.

The results of the chemical analyses for the year are as follows :—

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The construction of sewers in Blacon was further advanced during 1939 and at the year end considerable progress had been made. It is anticipated that the sewers throughout the main roads will be completed during 1940.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

As the sewers were being completed through the roadways in Blacon, adjoining property owners immediately put in hand the work of connecting the drains of their houses with the sewers. 48 houses were so drained and their cess-pools abolished. This work is proceeding very satisfactorily.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a classified statement of the work done in the Sanitary Department during the year:—

Complaints in respect of nuisances	255
Visits in respect of nuisances	2584
Rooms disinfected after infectious diseases	344
Rooms disinfected for other purposes	33
Investigations into Infectious Diseases	299
Matters referred to City Surveyor	34
Tests applied to drains	395
Number of premises—	
drains found defective	81
drains repaired	144
insufficient drainage or additional drainage	68
drainage systems re-constructed	82
Ashbins provided	121
Inspection of Schools	31
Inspections of Canal Boats	29
Inspections of Factories	254
Inspections of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	343
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	1625
Inspections of Butchers' shops	1198
Inspections of Fishmongers' shops	374
Inspections of other food shops	1006
Inspections of Offensive Trade Premises	28
Inspections of Caravans	48
Smoke observations	43
House to house inspections	112
Visits to Common Lodging Houses	42
Dwellings, Inspections and Re-inspections	3645

Visits in respect of Rat Nuisances	1743
Visits of Licensed Victuallers Premises	146
Visits under Shops Act, 1934	145
The following notices were served for the abatement of nuisances :—	
Intimation	433
Statutory	24

HOUSING.

In February, 1939, official representations were made in regard to the following Clearance Areas :—

Situation of Area	No. of Houses.	No. of Houses & Shops.	No. of Lock-up Shops & other Buildings	Total Premises
Chrisleton Road, No. 1 Area	14	2	1	17
Christleton Road, No. 2 Area	1	1	3	5
The Mount, Boughton Area	17	3	4	24

The Public Inquiry arranged by the Minister of Health in respect of these Areas was to have taken place on 26th September, 1939, but was cancelled on the outbreak of hostilities.

On 5th September, 1939, official representations were made in respect of the Clearance Areas set out below. These representations were withdrawn by leave of the City Council at their meeting on 27th September, 1939. This action was taken as a result of a letter from the Minister of Health dated 8th September, 1939.

Situation of Clearance Area	No. of Houses.
Charles Street	24
Edwards Court, Duke Street	6
Jones's Court, Greenway Street	5
Nield's Buildings	12
Oulton Place	8
Park Terrace	6
Prince's Court, Trafford Street	17
Ring O' Bells Entry	4
Union Terrace, Canal Side	8
Victoria Buildings, Lower Bridge Street	9
Watkins Court, Pitt Street	8
Total number of houses ...	107

During the year 51 houses have been demolished. Forty-six of these houses were situate in the Princess Street Clearance Areas and

five in Walton's Court, William Street which, as individual houses, were subject to Demolition Orders. All the tenants of the houses were provided with alternative accommodation.

A review into the circumstances of overcrowding was found to be inopportune.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

ANALYSES.

Article.	Number Examined			No. Adulterated, &c		
	Formal	In-formal	Total	Formal	In-formal	Total
Milk	71	4	75	14	3	17
Jams	4	4	...	...	...
Marmalade	3	3	...	...	...
Tea	3	3	...	...	...
Margarine	6	6	...	...	...
Butter	3	3	...	...	...
Olive Oil	2	2	...	...	...
Camphorated Oil	2	2	...	...	...
Glycerine	1	1	...	...	...
Aspirin	2	2	...	...	...
Castor Oil	1	1	...	...	...
Sweets	6	6	...	...	...
Fish Pastes	3	3	...	...	...
Coffee	2	2	...	...	...
Cream (Tinned)	4	4	...	...	...
Peas (Tinned)	2	2	...	...	...
Custard Powder	3	3	...	...	...
Flour, Plain	2	2	...	...	...
Flour, Self-Raising	2	2	...	...	...
Baking Powder	1	1	...	...	...
Lard	2	2	...	...	...
Beer	6	6	...	...	...
Ice Cream	4	4	...	...	...
Condensed Milk	3	3	...	...	...
Bread	3	3	...	...	...
Rice	2	2	...	...	...
Cream (Fresh)	2	2	...	...	...
Mince-meat	3	3	...	...	...
Pepper	2	2	...	...	...
Fruit Wine	1	1	...	...	...
Peppermint Cordial	1	1	...	...	...
Iodine and Blackcurrant Pastilles	1	1	...	1	1
Chloro Tablets	1	1	...	...	...
Mixed Fruits	2	2	...	...	...
Whisky	2	...	2	...	...	...
Rum	2	...	2	...	...	...
Port	2	...	2	...	...	...
Tomatoes (Tinned)	2	2	...	...	...
Ground Ginger	2	2	...	...	...
Peas (Dried)	1	1	...	...	...
Strawberries (Tinned)	1	1	...	...	...
Sardines	1	1	...	...	...
Candied Peel	2	2	...	...	...
Liquorice Powders	2	2	...	...	...
Sausages	3	3	...	...	...
Total	77	103	180	14	4	18

Milk.

Total samples analysed, 75.

Number of samples below standards (Fat 3 per cent., Solids not fat 8.5 per cent.)—17 or 22.6 per cent.

Averages—Fat, 3.54 per cent., Solids not fat, 8.7 per cent.

The circumstances relating to samples certified to be “not genuine” are set out in the following schedule of administrative action—

No. of Sample.	Article.	Result of Analysis.	Action taken.
20	Milk	8.3% deficient in fat, also slightly below standard for solids-not-fat. No added water. Freezing point normal.	
26	Milk	5% deficient in fat and slightly standard for solids-not-fat. No added water. Freezing point normal.	(Taken in course of delivery). Compare with No. 20.
27	Milk		
28	Milk	8.3% deficient in fat.	“On delivery” to compare with No. 20.
29	Milk	Below standards for fat and solids-not-fat.	“Appeal to Cow” samples. Compare with Nos. 20, 26, 27. Freisian herd. Letter sent to Producer calling attention to results of analyses.
30	Milk		
34	Milk	5% added water by freezing point test.	“Sterilized” Bottled Milk. Warning letters sent to Vendor and Producer.
47	Milk	10% deficient in fat.	Legal Proceedings—Case dismissed. Costs imposed £1 14s. 0d.
49	Milk	5% deficient in fat.	Legal Proceedings—Case dismissed. Costs imposed £1 14s. 0d.
68	Milk	10% deficient in fat.	Mixed Milk. Equal parts own cattle and Producer of No. 1355.
1352	Milk	3% deficient in fat.	“On delivery” to compare with No. 68.
1355	Milk	2.55% fat.	“Appeal to Cow.” From Producer selling milk to Vendor of No. 68. Warning letters sent to Vendor and Producer.
112	Milk	Contained 5.9% added water confirmed by freezing point test.	Letter sent to Vendor.
124	Milk	Contained 6% of added water.	Sterilized milk in bottle.
129	Milk	Contained 7% of added water.	In course of delivery to compare with No. 124.
130	Milk	Contained 5% of added water.	
131	Milk	Contained 7% of added water.	
		The addition of water confirmed by the freezing point test.	Legal Proceedings instituted. Fined £3 and costs £2 12s. 6d.
144 (Informal)	Iodine and Black-currant Pastilles	Contained only a very slight trace of iodine.	Further formal samples to be taken.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 AND 1938.

The following licences were issued during the year :—

Producers Licences—"Accredited"	7
Pasteurisers Licence	1
Supplementary Licences to Sell :—	
"Certified" Milk	3
"Accredited Milk"	2
"Pasteurised Milk"	1

EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 32 samples were submitted to the Pathological Department, Chester Royal Infirmary. Of these 4 (or 12.5 per cent.) proved to contain tubercle bacilli. Three of the positive cases were from farms outside the City and one inside the City boundary. Results of the tests were forwarded to the appropriate officers and subsequent reports showed successful action had been taken to eliminate the affected animals.

WHOLESALE DEALERS IN MARGARINE.

Three names were added to the Register of wholesale dealers in margarine under Section 34 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928.

Two samples of flock were submitted for analysis and were certified to contain 12 and 25 parts per 100,000 of chlorine respectively.

The standard for chlorine is 30 parts per 100,000.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The following "licences of slaughter" were issued :—

New Licences	4
Renewal Licences	53

Slaughtering in the City.

Place.	Cattle.	Calves	Sheep.	Pigs	Total.
Public Abattoir	2006	599	10033	1535	14173
Private Slaughterhouses	1010	172	5125	828	7135
Total	3016	771	15158	2363	21308

For the purposes of food inspection the following visits were made to :—

Slaughterhouses (not including Abattoir)	1625
Butchers' shops	1198
Fishmongers' shops	374
Other food shops, stores, etc.	1006
Total	<u>4203</u>

Unsound Food.

Article.	No.	Reason.
BEEF.		
Carcases and Offal	39	Generalised Tuberculosis.
Carcase and Offal	1	Septicaemia.
Portions of Carcasses (quarters)	33	Localised Tuberculosis.
VEAL.		
Carcase and Offal	1	Umbilical Pyaemia.
PORK.		
Carcases and Offal	7	Generalised Tuberculosis.
Carcase and Offal	1	Febrility.
" "	1	Jaundice.
Carcases and Offal	2	Oedema.
Carcase and Offal	1	Pneumonia.
" "	1	Febrility.
VISCERA AND ORGANS (lbs.)	14015	Localised Tuberculosis, Parasitic and other conditions.
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Imported Beef (lbs.)	593	Bone Taint, etc.
Fruit, Vegetables, Fish, etc. (tins)	556	Decomposition, etc.
Fish, various (lbs.)	2050	" "
Sausages (lbs.)	41	" "
Mushrooms (lbs.)	25	" "
Bacon (lbs.)	54	" "
Imported Lambs' Livers (tins)	6	" "
Fish Cakes (lbs.)	6	" "
Corned Beef (tins)	4	" "
Imported Eggs (tins)	3	" "
Jellied Veal (tins)	3	" "
Cream (tins)	3	" "
Ox Tongue (tins)	2	" "
Turkey (carcasses)	2	" "
Ham (tins)	2	" "
Corned Pork (tin)	1	" "
Yeast (tin)	1	" "
Mangoes (case)	1	" "

Total estimated weight condemned—21 tons 7 cwt. 3 qrs.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The notifications of infectious diseases during the fifty-two weeks ended 31st December, 1939, are as follows:—scarlet fever 123, diphtheria 135, enteric fever 0, pneumonia 36, erysipelas 7, puerperal pyrexia 24.

The notification of infectious disease per 1,000 population is as follows:—

	Enteric Fever	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas
England and Wales	0.04	1.89	1.14	1.02	0.34
Smaller Towns	0.04	1.78	1.16	0.89	0.31
Chester	0.00	2.7	2.9	0.79	0.15

The rates for puerperal pyrexia are best expressed per 1,000 total births.

	England and Wales	Smaller Towns	Chester
Puerperal pyrexia	14.35	12.99	32.9

Immunisation against diphtheria was carried on during the year.

Total number of children immunised during the year was 223. Of this number 65 were pre-school and the remainder of school age.

In addition, 64 children were posterior schick tested. All were negative.

The arrangements for the supply of diphtheria anti-toxin for use in emergency and necessitous cases remains as before. A medical practitioner can obtain at any hour, day or night, a supply of anti-toxin from the Town Hall.

Similarly throat swabs from suspect cases of diphtheria can be sent to the Town Hall after office hours. The Medical Officer of Health, or his Deputy, are informed of the message and place the swab on the appropriate medium, incubate overnight, and a report is issued to the medical practitioner in the morning.

Delay in the investigation of a case is thus reduced to a minimum. This facility is available on Sundays in addition.

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

The care of the blind in Chester has been delegated to the Chester Society for the Home Teaching of the Blind. The Local Authority has adopted a scheme for regulating the financial assistance given to them and their position has been improved during the year. A general

supervision of the work of the Society in Chester is undertaken by the Local Authority and the homes of the blind visited and their comfort seen to as far as possible. The Local Authority have two representatives on the Committee of Management.

There were 89 persons on the register at the end of the year and the Local Authority paid to the Society £3167 in the year, and have estimated £3411 for the current year. There have been 13 licences issued for wireless sets to blind people.

The Health Visitors paid 221 visits to Blind Persons during the year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified	Cases Treated.		Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	At Home.	In Hospital				
I	—	I	I	—	—	—

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 66.

A scheme under this section was approved by the Ministry of Health in 1937.

TUBERCULOSIS, 1939.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and mortality during 1939 are given below :—

Age Periods.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
			Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0—	...	...	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1—	...	...	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
5—	...	...	0	1	2	0	1	0	2	0
15—	...	...	5	2	0	1	2	0	2	1
25—	...	...	3	5	0	0	3	2	0	1
35—	...	...	6	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
45—	...	...	6	0	1	1	5	0	0	0
55—	...	...	7	1	1	0	9	0	1	0
65 and upwards...			1	2	0	0	1	3	0	0
Totals	...		29	13	4	3	22	7	6	2

3 deaths occurred during the year in non-notified cases.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

There has been no occasion to act on this regulation.

CLEANSING AND DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PERSONS AND THEIR BELONGINGS.

A shampoo station is freely used for the cleansing of heads of school children. In cases of body vermin, which are fortunately few, they are treated at the Disinfecting Station at the Isolation Hospital, where clothes and bedding are also treated. Occasionally we are asked to deal with an adult, who is dealt with in a similar fashion.

CANCER.

Facilities for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Cancer are available at the Chester Royal Infirmary which is equipped with Radium Deep X-Ray Therapy and Endo-diathermy supplied by the Cheshire and North Wales Group Executive of the British Empire Cancer Campaign.

The Radium Department was opened in 1930 and Dr. Ralston Paterson of the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester, acts as consultant.

Cases of cancer are sent from the City and surrounding areas. Beds are available for in-patient treatment in the Royal Infirmary

City Cases can be admitted to the City Hospital administered by the Local Authority, but only operative treatment can be undertaken and if Radium or Deep X-Ray Therapy is necessary, cases may be transferred for treatment in the Royal Infirmary.

DEATHS FROM CANCER IN 1939.

Age Periods.					Males	Fe- Males
0	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...	2	3
45	...	...	...	...	5	6
55	...	...	...	...	4	10
65	...	...	...	...	11	14
75 and upwards	...	...	...	...	4	11
Totals					26	44

CITY AND COUNTY OF THE CITY OF CHESTER.—Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1939.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NET DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 35.	35 and under 45.	45 and under 55.	55 and under 65.
	75 and upwards.	65 and under 75.	55 and under 65.	45 and under 55.	35 and under 45.	25 and under 35.	15 and under 25.	5 and under 15.	2 and under 5.	1 and under 2.
ALL CAUSES.										
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Diphtheria	11	1	...	6	5	...	...	...	...	...
6 Influenza	12	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
7 Encephalitis Lethargica	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	29	...	...	1	1	2	5	2	9	3
10 Other Tuberculous Disease	8	1	...	...	2	3	1	...	1	...
11 Syphilis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
13 Cancer, Malignant Disease	70	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	11	14
14 Diabetes	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	45	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	16
16 Heart Disease	162	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	1	33
17 Aneurysm	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
18 Other circulatory diseases	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
19 Bronchitis	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	57	16	4	3	1	1	1	...	4	2
21 Other Respiratory Diseases	7	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	1
22 Peptic Ulcer	8	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	2
23 Diarrhoea, etc.	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24 Appendicitis	5	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	1
25 Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
26 Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
27 Other Digestive Diseases	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	5
29 Puerperal Sepsis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
30 Other Puerperal Causes	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...
31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	31	30	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
32 Senility	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33 Suicide	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
34 Other Violence	22	...	1	1	1	...	2	1	1	5
35 Other Defined Diseases	48	3	1	1	3	4	1	1	6	11
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	611	54	8	12	16	15	19	16	50	115
										140
										157

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1939 and previous years.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Un- corrected Number	Nett		Number 2	Rate	Of Non- residents registered in the District	Of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number †	Rate					Number +	Rate per 1000 Nett Births	Number +	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1929	40,920	805	707	17.25	689	16.83	211	148	55	77.7	026	14.3
1930	40,910	798	667	16.3	616	15.5	172	141	48	71.96	585	13.60
1931	41,380	799	671	16.11	595	14.37	196	147	46	68.5	546	12.47
1932	41,350	804	686	16.5	592	14.31	205	150	37	53.9	537	12.98
1933	41,070	698	590	14.4	606	14.7	200	136	40	67.7	542	13.19
1934	40,800	795	654	16.0	613	15.0	248	172	47	71.8	533	13.06
1935	40,500	672	567	14.0	621	15.3	252	183	43	75.8	552	13.6
1936	45,131	852	663	15.1	754	17.1	267	73	34	51.3	600	13.9
1937	44,610	882	656	14.7	845	18.9	248	37	39	59.6	634	14.7
1938	44,360	667	644	14.5	813	18.3	237	25	48	74.3	601	14.0
1939	44,280 (B.R.) 45,090 (I.M.)	1031	728	15.6	828	16.1	217	40	54	77.3	611	13.8

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 4,142

No. of inhabited houses, 11,951.

* Total deaths occurring in Chester whether of residents or non-residents.

† Births and deaths corrected for those births and deaths properly belonging to Chester, but occurring outside the District, or occurring in the District but properly belong outside.



